

Remarks/Arguments

This paper is in response to the Advisory Action of August 4, 2006. The due date for response is September 4, 2006, within a one month reply window.

This amendment has been prepared pursuant to the discussion the Applicants had with the Examiner. In the discussion the Applicants had with the Examiner on August 31, 2006, the Examiner has agreed that these amendments will overcome the cited arts. Although the amendment represents one embodiment of the invention, the Applicants reserve the right to further pursue the other embodiments of the invention in a subsequently filed continuation.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended and dependent claim 20 has been cancelled. Amendments were made to the claims to further clarify the inventions. The amendments do not introduce new matter. All claims not canceled are pending after entry of the present Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. section 103:

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-12, 14-15, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over East et al. (East), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0061323 and further in view of Prager et al. (Prager), U. S. Patent No. 5,838,918. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 were amended to provide more clarity to the claim language. Particularly, claims 1, 8 and 15 were amended to state that administrators are teachers and users are students of the system with each teacher responsible for administering a class related to the teacher. Claims 1, 8 and 15 were amended to further clarify task group as comprising common needs of a separate and discrete subset of users in a system.

East discloses a hierarchical system and method for centralized management of updates in thin clients. According to East, thin clients are configured such that updates to configurations to

the thin client are made either through a master administrative server or are controlled by a remote administrative server. East does not suggest or teach administrators being teachers and users being students of a system. East, further, does not suggest or teach grouping administrative tasks into a plurality of task groups with each task group comprising common needs of a separate and discrete subset of users in a system. By grouping administrative tasks into task groups with each group representing the common needs of a discrete subset of users, the tasks can be administered in a fast and efficient way.

Prager discloses a method of computer configuration management. Prager teaches a management-by-subscription technique which allows distributed system's administrators to divide management tasks between different individual administrators. Although Prager teaches dividing management tasks between different individual administrators, Prager does not suggest or teach administrators being teachers with students being users of a system and the administrators are responsible for administering a class related to the teacher.

East and Prager teach administrators as managers of computer systems which is not the same as teachers. Applicants claimed invention is directed to administrators who are teachers of students which is different from a manager because managing a computer system is not the same as being a teacher of a student who is a user of a system.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants submit that East and Prager individually or combined do not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejections with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 15 be withdrawn. Dependent claim 20 has been cancelled. Claims 4-7, 11-12, 14, 18-19 and 21 are dependent on independent claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively and are, therefore, submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims.

Although the amendment has been entered for a particular embodiment, the Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation, if desired. Thus, this amendment should not be construed as an agreement with the Examiner's position on prior art.

With these clarifications, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6905. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP582). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, LLP


Jayanthi Minisandram

Registration No.53,330

710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 200
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
Telephone: (408) 774-6911
Facsimile: (408) 749-6901
Customer No. 32291